

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE**

In Re Patent Application of: )  
Ashford et al. ) Examiner: Natalie A. Pass  
 ) Art Unit: 3626  
Application No. 09/648,582 )  
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Filed: August 25, 2000 )  
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For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING )  
INCENTIVES TO PHYSICIANS )  
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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Dear Sir:

Applicants note the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. No inference or conclusion should be drawn that Applicants believe that the Examiner's reasons for allowance are the sole reasons that the claims are patentable. The Examiner's statement appears to focus on certain features contained in the independent claims and not disclosed in the prior art. However, no mention is made with respect to other inventive aspects of the independent claims, nor to any of the dependent claims, which include other and/or additional patentable aspects. Thus, Applicants interpret the Examiner's statement to not be exhaustive -- whether relative to the independent claims or the dependent claims.

Finally, although Applicants agree with the Examiner's ultimate conclusion that the inventions, as claimed herein, are patentable over the prior art, there are many inventions described and illustrated in the above-referenced application that are not claimed herein. Indeed,

those inventions may or may not include one, some or all of the features the Examiner indicates are not disclosed in the prior art.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 6, 2008



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